



### **BE RICH, Part 3**

Sermon Small Group Questions

Speaker: Pastor Dave Patterson

#### **USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE**

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your small group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so knock yourself out with the discussion questions but spend more time laughing than

***The Biblical motivation to give is the grace of God.***

#### **[1 Timothy 6.17-19]**

*Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. <sup>18</sup> Command them to do good, to **be rich** in good deeds, and **to be generous** and **willing to share**. <sup>19</sup> In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.*

## [2 Corinthians 8.1-7]

And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about **the grace that God has given** the Macedonian churches. <sup>2</sup> In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. <sup>3</sup> For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, <sup>4</sup> they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. <sup>5</sup> And they exceeded our expectations: **They gave themselves first of all to the Lord**, and then by the will of God, to us also. <sup>6</sup> So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. <sup>7</sup> But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you — see that you also excel in **this grace of giving**.

**Grace is God's invitation, and faith is our response.**

## [2 Corinthians 9.6-8]

<sup>6</sup> Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. <sup>7</sup> You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And **don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure**. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." <sup>8</sup> And God is able to make **all grace abound to you** then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.

## [2 Corinthians 9:13-14]

<sup>13</sup> As a result of your ministry, they will give glory to God. For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ. <sup>14</sup> And they will pray for you with deep affection because of **the overflowing grace God has given to you**. <sup>15</sup> Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

**[Colossians 2.6]**

So then, **just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him.**

**How The Grace of Giving Works in Our Lives:**

**1. Live life centered in Jesus and His message**

**[2 Corinthians 8.1]**

They gave themselves **first of all to the Lord**, and then by the will of God, to us also.

**Liberalitas (Roman philosophy)**

Giving to please the recipient with the hopes that the recipient would return the favor

*“The impious Galileans (Christians) support not only their poor, but ours as well...”*

**-Emperor Julian**  
*The Rise of Christianity by Rodney Stark*

**2. Live life filled with the Holy Spirit**

**[Acts 4.31-34]**

<sup>31</sup> After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And **they were all filled with the Holy Spirit** and spoke the word of God boldly.

*32 All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had.*

*33 With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. **And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all** that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales*

### **3. Invest in faith what you have been given by Grace**

**[Proverbs 11.24 MSG]**

*The world of the generous **gets larger and larger**; the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller.*

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- 1. What motivates you to give?**
- 2. How do you give out of your life when it feels like there's nothing there to be released?**
- 3. Why is it that we can start off in grace, but end up in law?**
- 4. What are side effects of being filled by the power of The Holy Spirit? (grace of giving, not burden)**
- 5. What do you think God does in our character in each season of the giving process: gathering seed, sowing in fertile soil, and harvesting crops?**
- 6. Challenge: If you're feeling dry and empty, block out four hours of time with God--you, God, worship music, a Bible, and a notebook**